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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed October 4, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 3 is canceled. Claims 1-2 and 4-15 have been amended. Claims 16-19 are added. Claims 1-19 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 7, and 11 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed October 4, 2004, claims 1, 2, 6, and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,456,727 (Franchi).

Claims 3-5 and 7-12 were found to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the allowable subject matter, independent claim 1 is rewritten to include the limitations of dependent claim 3. In addition, claims 7 and 11 have each been rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 7, and 11 should now be allowable as containing subject matter found to be allowable.

The claims have also been amended to recite "cylinder" instead of "master cylinder". As stated by the Examiner in lines 4-6 of page 3 in the Office Action, the statement of "master cylinder for a hydraulically actuated clutch or brake system in a motor vehicle" is treated as an intended use and has not been considered a limitation of the claim.

New claims 16-19 are added depending from independent claims 7 and 11. New claims 16 and 18 correspond to original claim 13 and new claims 17 and 19 correspond to original claim 15.

Dependent claims 2-6, 8-10, and 12-19, each being dependent on one of independent claims 1, 7, and 11, are deemed allowable for at least the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claims 1, 7, and 11.

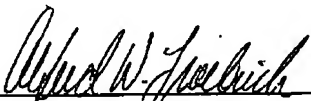
The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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